



This week's big news

DID YOU KNOW?

The first American jury trial took place in Plymouth, in the Massachusetts Bay Colony, in 1630.



Former President Donald Trump leaving the courtroom on May 30

The foreperson's role



Under New York state law, the first person chosen for a jury becomes the foreperson. They oversee deliberations and ensure that every juror has a fair chance to express their views. After the verdict is reached, the foreperson informs the judge and announces the jury's decision on each charge in court.

Verdict in former President's trial

On May 30, a jury in New York City found former President Donald Trump guilty of criminal charges that were made against him. Trump, who held office from 2017 to 2021, is the first current or former US President to be charged with or convicted of a crime. Trump is running for a second term and is expected to be the Republican nominee for President in the election on November 5. The verdict was announced at the end of a six-week trial.

What was the trial?

Trump was charged with 34 counts of falsifying business records in order to influence the 2016 election, which he won. They were felony charges, which means they were serious crimes that can be punishable by a heavy sentence, including prison time. The charges were filed in April 2023 by Alvin Bragg, who is the district attorney (top lawyer) for Manhattan, which is part of New York City. Trump's company is based in New York City, which is why he was charged there.



Judge Juan Merchan

What was the verdict?

A jury of 12 people found that Trump created fraudulent (deceptive) business records in an

effort to cover up a \$130,000 payment made by one of his representatives. The payment was given to a woman in exchange for her silence on a matter Trump did not want made public before the 2016 election because it may have harmed his chances of winning. Trump falsely recorded the payment as legal services.

How was the verdict given?

The jury of seven men and five women deliberated in a room for about 11 hours over two days before reaching their verdict. Trump, who attended the trial every day, sat watching as the jury returned to the courtroom and the foreperson read the verdict for each of the 34 charges. (See box above for more on the foreperson's role.) Afterward, the court clerk polled the jurors one by one, and each stated that they agreed with the verdicts that had been announced. Judge Juan Merchan then told Trump he was free to leave and would need to return to court to be sentenced at a later date.

How did people react?

Trump has insisted that he is innocent and said the trial was an effort to prevent him from winning the 2024 election. "The real verdict

is going to be November 5, by the people," Trump said after the verdict was announced. At a press conference, Bragg said, "While this defendant may be unlike any other in American history, we arrived at this trial, and ultimately today at this verdict, in the same manner as every other case that comes through the courtroom doors, by following the facts and the law." A poll by ABC News/Ipsos taken after the verdict showed that 50% of Americans thought the verdict was correct, and 49% thought Trump should end his Presidential campaign over the outcome.

What will happen next?

Trump's sentencing is scheduled for July 11. He could face between 16 months and four years in prison, but legal experts said he is likely to serve a shorter sentence or avoid prison time completely. Trump is expected to appeal (ask higher courts to overturn the verdict), a process that would likely take more than a year and could reach the US Supreme Court (highest court of law). In the meantime, Trump is legally allowed to run for office and serve as President if he wins. He also faces criminal charges on different matters in Florida, Georgia, and Washington, DC, but those cases are unlikely to go to trial before the election.



Major fossil to be auctioned

The largest and most complete *Stegosaurus* skeleton ever discovered will go up for sale at Sotheby's, a famous auction house in New York City, on July 17. The 11-foot-tall, 20-foot-long dinosaur, called Apex, is 30% larger than the previous record-holding *Stegosaurus*. Sotheby's predicts that Apex could sell for between \$4 million and \$6 million.

Apex was found on private land in Colorado in 2022 and is about 161 million years old. The *Stegosaurus* lived millions of years before species like *Tyrannosaurus rex* and *Triceratops* did. That means *Stegosaurus* fossils are much harder to find than those of younger dinosaurs. Cassandra Hatton, a Sotheby's expert, said Apex is "simply one of the best fossils of its kind ever unearthed."

The sale of Apex, and other fossils like it, is controversial. Critics say that auctions like these drive up the price of rare fossils, which means that museums and scientific institutions can't afford them, but some private buyers can. Privately owned fossils are often unavailable for scientists to study.



Apex on display



Claudia Sheinbaum

FAST FACT
After Mexico gained independence from Spain in 1821, its first president was Guadalupe Victoria, who served from 1824–1829.

Historic election result in Mexico

Voters in Mexico elected Claudia Sheinbaum president on June 2, making her the first female president in the nation's history, as well as the first Jewish president. Sheinbaum won with nearly 60% of the vote and will begin a six-year term on October 1. The election was also historic because Sheinbaum's main opponent, Xóchitl Gálvez, is a woman as well.

Sheinbaum, age 61, holds a PhD (highest degree) in energy engineering and was part of a team of climate scientists and experts who won a Nobel Peace Prize. She is a longtime ally of the popular outgoing President Andrés Manuel López Obrador, who was prevented by term limits from running again. Sheinbaum was an environment secretary for López Obrador when he was mayor of Mexico City. In 2018, when

López Obrador became president, Sheinbaum became Mexico City's first female mayor.

Sheinbaum has said she intends to continue many of López Obrador's policies, including programs that have lifted many Mexicans out of poverty. One of her greatest challenges, however, will be reducing crime across the country. López Obrador has been criticized for allowing crime to flourish during his term.

Other issues Sheinbaum will be expected to address include an increase in immigration into and out of Mexico. Another top priority for the new president will be to manage Mexico's relationship with the US. The two countries are close allies.

"We made history!" Sheinbaum told a crowd of supporters after her win. "I promise that I am not going to let you down."



IT'S AN AMAZING WEEK FOR...

A CULINARY HONOR

Naples, Italy, commonly believed to be the birthplace of pizza, has taken this year's top spot on a list of the world's best cities for food. Pizza margherita, with tomatoes, mozzarella, and basil, was called "the city's crowning dish."



Pizza in Naples



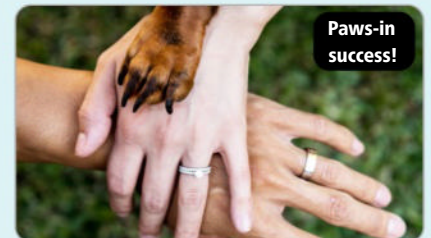
The Doodle

A DOUBLE BROOD DOODLE

The Google Doodle on May 29 marked the rare emergence of two massive broods of cicadas at the same time across parts of the US this summer. Four red-eyed insects were depicted playing in a rock band. "This event is as uncommon as it is strange to witness," Google said.

VIRAL DOG TRICKS

The "paws-in" challenge is sweeping social media, with videos of people and their pups garnering tens of millions of views. Owners stack their hands in front of their dog and wait to see if the pet places a paw on top. Some dogs get it right away, others put a snout down instead—but all get kisses and treats.



Paws-in success!



FUN FACT

The longest word in the history of the Scripps National Spelling Bee was "scherenschnitte," the art of cutting paper into decorative designs.



Bruhat Soma, the 2024 winner of the Scripps National Spelling Bee

The winning word

ABSEIL

"Abseil" was the winning word in this year's spelling bee. It is defined as a mountaineering descent using a rope that is looped over a higher point. Other words that the winner, Bruhat Soma, spelled correctly included "caixinha" (a Brazilian musical instrument) and "puszta" (a treeless plain in Hungary).

Scripps Spelling Bee winner named

Bruhat Soma, a 12-year-old from Florida, was crowned champion of the 96th annual Scripps National Spelling Bee on May 30. The event took place outside Washington, DC, and was broadcast on the ION TV network.

What is the bee?

The Scripps National Spelling Bee, which began in 1925, is the nation's most prestigious spelling competition. It is open to students who have not turned 16 or finished eighth grade. During the event, spellers take turns trying to spell a word no one else has attempted. First they must pronounce it correctly, then they have two minutes to spell it out loud. If they spell it correctly, they remain in the bee. If not, they are eliminated. Bee officials include Jacques A. Bailly, who has been the event's

head pronouncer since 2003, and Mary Brooks, who has been the head judge since 2005.

Who is Bruhat Soma?

Soma, a seventh grader, previously competed twice in the bee. In 2022, he tied for 163rd place, and last year he tied for 74th place. He is an enthusiastic reader and plays basketball, badminton, ping-pong, and the snare drum. He received \$50,000, a medal, and the Scripps Cup trophy for his win.

How does the bee work?

During the academic year, 11 million students from more than 23,000 schools compete in bees in their classrooms. Top performers advance to schoolwide, county or district, regional, and statewide competitions. Winners go to the national rounds.

This year, 245 spellers, ages 8 to 15, reached the nationals, and eight made it to the finals. The event was decided by a spell-off, a tie-breaking feature introduced in 2022 in which contestants spell as many words as possible in 90 seconds.

What happened in the final round?

Soma and Faizan Zaki, a 12-year-old from Texas, were the last competitors after 14 rounds. Soma achieved victory by correctly spelling 29 words, seven more than the previous spell-off winner in 2022. Zaki finished second by correctly spelling 20 words. "I'm really excited," Soma said while holding his trophy. "It's been my goal for this past year to win, and I've been working really hard." He later described the spell-off as "kind of exhilarating" and said winning was "like a dream come true."



WORD OF THE WEEK

EMOTION

The word "emotion" is used differently today than it was in the past. In the 16th century, "emotion" was used to describe "a public disturbance" or "commotion." At its heart is the Latin word *movere*, "to move," but it took another 300 years before the word came to mean a strong feeling that "moves" us, such as anger or joy.



THE WEEK IN HISTORY

June 8, 1789

The Bill of Rights is introduced

On June 8, 1789, James Madison, who later became the fourth US President, gave a speech to the House of Representatives (one half of Congress, which makes laws) in favor of adding 19 changes to the Constitution. These changes included giving people freedom of speech and freedom of religion. In the end, 10 changes passed in 1791 and became known as the Bill of Rights.

James Madison





Josh Gibson

New all-time batting leader

Josh Gibson has replaced Ty Cobb as the all-time leading hitter in Major League Baseball (MLB) history. Gibson played from 1930–1946 in the Negro Leagues, professional leagues created for Black players after the MLB excluded them due to racism. He was recognized after statistics from more than 2,300 Negro Leagues players were added to MLB records. Gibson's career batting average of .372 edged out Cobb's average of .367.



Melinda French Gates

Donations to support women

Melinda French Gates, a philanthropist (person who gives money to help others), announced that over the next two years she will donate \$1 billion to support women and families. Her organization, Pivotal Ventures, will grant money to groups that work to protect and advance women's rights, and 12 individuals will each receive \$20 million to give to nonprofit organizations of their choice.



The class of 2024

First medical class graduates

The first class of medical students to attend a physician training program on the Cherokee Nation reservation in Tahlequah, Oklahoma, has graduated. The program was created by Oklahoma State University and the Cherokee Nation in 2020 to help ease the shortage of Indigenous doctors in the US. The new doctors include people from 14 Native American tribes.



DID YOU KNOW?

More than 2,200 animals live at the National Zoo in Washington, DC, which welcomes about 2 million visitors a year.

Bao Li (left) and Qing Bao

Pandas to return to Washington, DC

On May 29, the Smithsonian's National Zoo and Conservation Biology Institute in Washington, DC, announced that it will receive a pair of giant pandas from China by the end of the year. The news comes six months after the National Zoo sent giant pandas Mei Xiang and Tian Tian and their cub Xiao Qi Ji back to China when the agreement to host them expired.

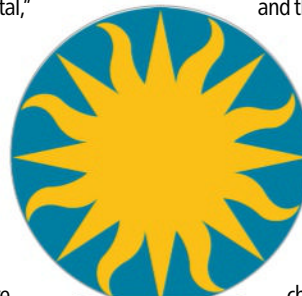
"We can't wait to celebrate this historic moment, here in our nation's capital," First Lady Jill Biden said in a video announcing the agreement. National Zoo director Brandie Smith, who also appeared in the video, said the pandas are one of the zoo's "biggest conservation success stories."

China is the only natural habitat for giant pandas, and there are fewer than 1,900 living there in the wild. China has loaned pandas to more than 20 other countries and has shared pandas with the US since 1972. At US zoos, the pandas receive care and opportunities to breed. Any cubs they produce are sent to China within four years.

More giant pandas from China are set to arrive at zoos in California this year. In April, the San Francisco Zoo said it had signed an agreement to host two pandas. It will be the first time giant pandas from China will officially live at that zoo. In February, the San Diego Zoo said it would also receive two pandas—the first time the animals will live there since 2019. Currently, the only US site hosting Chinese pandas is Zoo Atlanta in Georgia, and that agreement will expire this year.

The 2-year-old male coming to the National Zoo is a grandchild of Mei Xiang and Tian Tian. His name is Bao Li (pronounced BOW-lee), from Mandarin words meaning "treasure" and "energetic." A 2-year-old female named Qing Bao (pronounced ching-BOW), from the words for "green" and "treasure," will join him.

Bao Li and Qing Bao will travel to the US with an animal care team, aboard a flight known as the FedEx Panda Express. Upon arrival, they will live in a private area while zookeepers help them adjust to their new environment.



The Smithsonian Institution's logo

THE WEEK'S SILLIEST HEADLINE

"Flock of noisy feral chickens keeps village residents up at night" UPI





Around the world

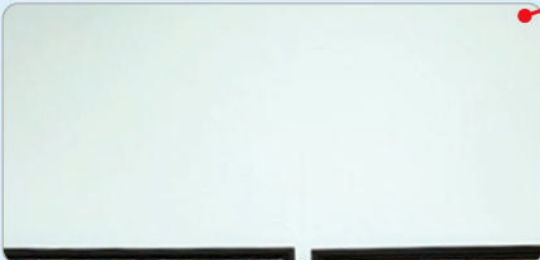


Sol Mamakwa



Ontario, Canada First speech in Indigenous language

On May 28, politician Sol Mamakwa spoke to the lawmaking assembly of Ontario in Anishiniimowin, his Indigenous language (original language spoken by people native to a place). It was the assembly's first speech in an Indigenous language. Previously lawmakers were required to speak in English or French at the assembly, but that rule was recently changed. Mamakwa said he felt "thankful and proud."



Neubeuern, Germany Toddler art sells for thousands

Paintings by 2-year-old Laurent Schwarz (above) have started selling for up to \$7,000 apiece. Schwarz creates colorful art using brushes, rollers, spatulas, and his fingers. His parents, Lisa and Philipp, first noticed their son's artistic talent in September 2023 and set up a website to sell his work. They said all the money raised will be put into a savings account for Laurent to use when he gets older.



Orange production is down.



Brazil Shortage of oranges raises price

Growers in Brazil, where 70% of the world's orange juice is produced, said they expect this year's orange harvest to be 24% lower than last year's. This will be the third difficult harvest season in a row as orange trees have suffered from disease and extreme weather. Orange juice prices have reached an all-time high, and some juice makers are considering using other fruits.



Scotland, United Kingdom Rugby players lend a hand

With the help of two Scottish rugby teams, 10-year-old Oona Dooks has fulfilled her dream of climbing Arthur's Seat, an 823-foot peak in the city of Edinburgh. Dooks uses a wheelchair due to a condition that affects her legs and hips. On this climb she used a special all-terrain chair, which the athletes helped push and pull up to the summit.

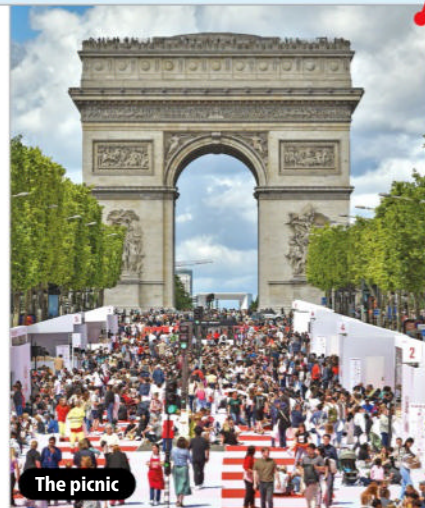


Ascending Arthur's Seat



Paris, France Massive free picnic

On May 26, *le grand pique-nique* ("the big picnic") took place on the Champs-Élysées, a famous street in Paris. A giant red-checked picnic blanket was spread out to seat 4,400 people while chefs from eight nearby restaurants served up meals and treats. The free event was intended to bring local residents back to the once-popular street, which is now visited mostly by tourists. About 273,000 people applied to take part in the picnic.



The picnic

ELEANOR THOM/PA; GETTY IMAGES (4); SOUTH KOREA PRESIDENTIAL OFFICE/AP; THE CANADIAN PRESS/ALAMY LIVE NEWS; @LAURENTS.ART; SHUTTERSTOCK (2)

Around the world



President Cyril Ramaphosa



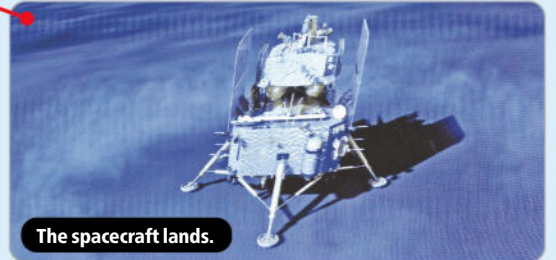
South Africa Top party loses majority

On June 2, it was announced that the African National Congress (ANC), South Africa's biggest political party and the party of its president, lost its majority for the first time in 30 years. The ANC needed more than 50% of the vote to win the May 29 election but got 40%. It will now have to work with other parties if it wants to form a government.



Tamil Nadu, India Using new technology to save elephants

A new surveillance system is being used in the state of Tamil Nadu to stop trains from killing wild elephants (above). The system uses artificial intelligence (AI, when a computer imitates human learning) to detect elephants and alerts forest and railway officials when the animals are within about 100 feet of the railway track. Officials then work together to slow down trains and guide the elephants away from danger.



The spacecraft lands.



Beijing, China Successful Moon landing

The China National Space Administration landed an uncrewed spacecraft on the far side of the Moon on June 2. The Chang'e 6 spacecraft launched on May 3 with a mission to collect samples of rock and soil from the side of the Moon that can't be seen from Earth and is largely unexplored. Scientists hope these samples will help them understand how planets form. China said it wants to send astronauts to the Moon in the future.



Protesters in Auckland



New Zealand Protests against government policies

On May 30, thousands of people took part in protests against new policies, which they say are erasing the rights of Indigenous Māori people (the first people known to have inhabited New Zealand). The government says its policies will help everyone, but critics say the plans will limit the use of the Māori language and cut programs that benefit Māori people.



South Korea Balloon dispute

South Korea suspended a 2018 agreement with neighboring North Korea after North Korea sent hundreds of balloons carrying garbage into South Korea. The 2018 agreement had banned any hostile acts near the countries' shared border. North Korea said it sent the balloons attached to bags of toilet paper and other trash in response to South Korean activists sending anti-North Korea pamphlets over the border by balloon.



Some of the trash balloons



The big debate

Should you read a book more than once?

Some people return to old favorites, while others want to dive into something new.

What you need to know

- In a recent study conducted by Scholastic, nine out of 10 kids said their favorite books are the ones they picked out themselves.
- The study also found that kids who choose their own books read more.
- Experts say rereading books helps kids become better, faster readers and helps comprehension.
- On the popular site Goodreads, where people keep track of the books they have read, millions of people said they have reread their favorites.



WOW!
One publishing database estimates that there are 158,464,880 books in the world, with about 2.2 million new ones published each year.

So many books are published every year that even the most dedicated reader would never be able to get through them all. Yet many people like to return to books they've already read. "Books are like people," said Jane Brown, a retired literature professor at the University of Washington. "Some you meet once and that's enough. Some you want to get to know better, and whenever you are with them you discover more about them. Some are old friends you haven't seen in years but to meet them again is a joy." Still, many people think their time is better spent discovering a new story. What do you think? Should you read a book more than once?

Yes—the experience changes

People listen to songs and watch movies over and over, so why not read books again? Every time you read a book, you notice new details and interpret things differently than you did the last time, especially as you get older. Reading something at age 10 is different from reading it at age 15. And many people struggle to find books that interest them. It's better for them to reread the same book than to give up on reading entirely. Book lovers say that rereading favorite books can bring comfort and happiness, like hanging out with a best friend. If you enjoy a book, it doesn't matter if you're reading it for the first time or the fifth.

No—the world is full of new books

Why read a book you've already read when there are so many more to discover? Books aren't like films or songs. They take a while to read, and that time would be better spent reading something new. Think of all the stories people miss out on each time they reread an old book. And if you only read the same stories again and again, you won't progress as a reader. Rather than rereading something, why not give your copy to someone so they can enjoy it for the first time? Then you can discuss it afterward and see what they thought. You might think about the book differently after hearing a fresh opinion.

YES

Three reasons why you should read a book more than once

- 1 People notice new details and themes every time they read a book again, which only makes it better and more interesting.
- 2 It's better for people to reread something they're interested in than not to read at all.
- 3 Rereading a book you love is comforting and fun and makes you feel happy. If you enjoy it, there's no reason not to read it.

NO

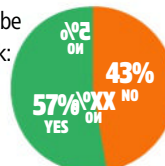
Three reasons why you should not read a book more than once

- 1 Reading a book isn't quick. Why waste time on something you've already read?
- 2 If you keep reading the same book, you won't hear new and different stories or make progress as a reader.
- 3 If you share your copy of a favorite book with someone, they can experience it too—and you can talk about it together.

LAST WEEK'S POLL

Last week, we asked if parks should be closed at night. More than half of you think it's best for park gates to be shut after dark:

57% of you said yes, and 43% said no.



What do you think?

Now that you've read a bit more about this issue, visit kids.theweekjunior.com/polls so you can vote in our debate. Vote **YES** if you think you should read a book more than once or **NO** if you don't. We'll publish the results next week.

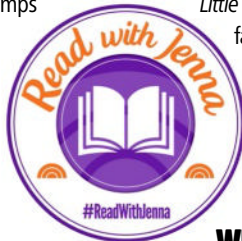
The goal of the big debate is to present two sides of an issue fairly in order to stimulate discussion and allow our readers to make up their minds. The views on this page do not reflect those of *The Week Junior*, and the page is not funded by third parties.

Books are fun!

The Week Junior is thrilled to have Jenna Bush Hager, co-host of *Today with Hoda & Jenna* and founder of *Read With Jenna*, as the guest editor of our Summer of Reading issue. Her "Read With Jenna Jr. Summer Reading List" is out now. We spoke to her about the power that reading can have in a person's life.

Can you think of a book that has helped or changed you?

I can think of so many, but one of the mistakes I think we make is believing that every book we read has to be profound. I remember being at summer camp and falling in love with the *Goosebumps* series because I loved to read mysteries and I liked to be scared. So yes, books can change you. Books can take you to places you've never been. A book can also just be really fun to read!



What makes reading in the summer different?

It's not any different except that you have more time! If your school sends home a recommended reading list, don't choose the first book on it. Look for a book you think you could become engrossed in. If you spend a little more time doing that, then reading won't feel like a chore. You'll want to stay up late with a flashlight to finish it.

How can kids discover books they love to read?

I would suggest checking out books that are part of a series, because if you like the first book, you'll probably enjoy the next

one. A series is like one long story told over several books. My daughters are fans of the Heidi Heckelbeck series and the *Hunger Games* series. Think about what shows you like to watch. Is there a book that's set in a world that's similar to a program you enjoy? Go to your local library and tell a librarian what you're interested in, whether that's adventure, mysteries, or skateboarding. Chances are, they will know just the book you should try.

Do you have a favorite character from a book?

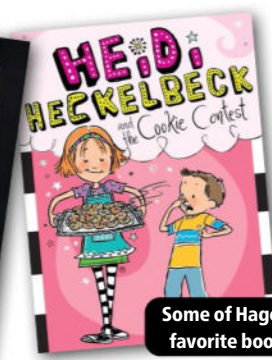
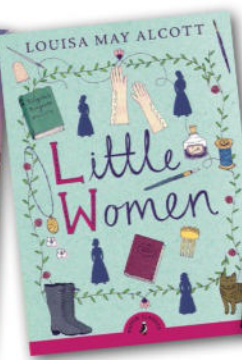
Little Women is one of my all-time favorite books, which my mom and my grandmother also loved, and I would love to hang with Jo March. Her character is an inspiration to anyone who dreams of writing.

What about a favorite evil character?

I remember being scared of the substitute teacher in the picture book *Miss Nelson Is Missing*. I like the ending, when you find out who the substitute teacher might have been!

What are some of the books on your list for kids this summer?

We have 29 books on the list, and I'm excited about them all! For instance, there's *Alone* by Megan Freeman. It has a wilderness and survival theme similar to the award-winning book *Hatchet*. *The Mystery of Locked Rooms* by Lindsay Currie and *The Adventures of Invisible Boy* by Doogie Horner are two more books I predict middle school kids will enjoy.



Some of Hager's favorite books



Animals and the environment

DID YOU KNOW?

Scientists think there could be 8.7 million species on Earth, but only 1.2 million have been discovered.



A Cuban crocodile in a marine protected area

Species success story

In 2003, saiga antelopes were critically endangered due to poaching (illegal hunting) and disease. Officials in Kazakhstan introduced anti-poaching measures and made efforts to protect their habitats. Last year their status was changed to “near threatened,” with 1.9 million saiga antelopes in the wild today.



A saiga antelope

Conservation projects are working

Conservationists received good news recently when a big research study found that wildlife protection programs really are effective.

Currently, more than 44,000 species are considered to be at risk of extinction.

Threats to these species include habitat loss and changes in weather patterns, such as rising temperatures, and many of them are endangered due to human activities. Conservation projects try to boost the species' populations and help them thrive.

For the new study, a team of international researchers looked at 665 conservation efforts between 1890 and 2019. The projects took place around the world and

focused on many different species. The results showed that two thirds of these attempts either improved biodiversity (the variety of wildlife in an area) or slowed its decline. The researchers said that when conservation works, “it really works.”



Bald eagles are no longer endangered.

Successful examples included efforts to manage predators along the coast of Florida, which helped increase the numbers of loggerhead turtles and least terns (a type of bird). Another successful conservation method involved breeding certain species, such as Chinook salmon and Cuban crocodiles,

in captivity and then releasing them into the wild. In one of America's most successful cases, captive

breeding programs worked alongside protections for bald eagles and their habitats in the wild.

Not all efforts were successful in their goals, but failures helped conservationists improve their knowledge and design better methods in the future. Sometimes they also helped other species by accident. Off the coast of New South Wales, Australia, for example, protected sea areas were created to boost seahorse numbers. The seahorse population actually fell because the protected waters attracted seahorse predators, such as octopuses, but the octopus population increased.

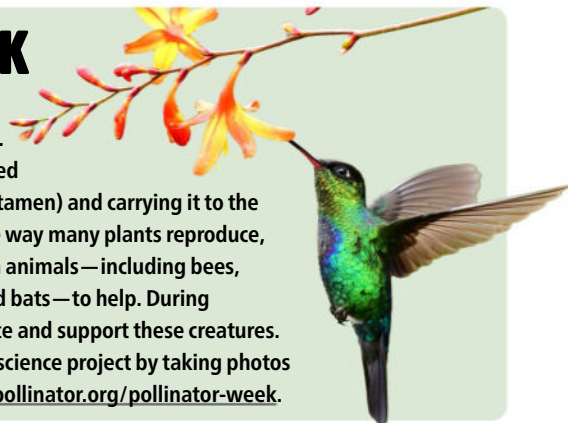
One of the study's co-authors, Joseph Bull, said that although people may feel discouraged when species become threatened or lost, the research showed that taking action usually had a positive impact. “Our results clearly show that there is room for hope,” he said.



POLLINATOR WEEK

June 17–23 is Pollinator Week, an annual celebration of animals that pollinate plants.

Pollination involves taking a substance called pollen from the male part of a flower (the stamen) and carrying it to the female part (the stigma). This process is the way many plants reproduce, and at least 75% of flowering plants rely on animals—including bees, butterflies, moths, hummingbirds, flies, and bats—to help. During Pollinator Week, events are held to celebrate and support these creatures. People can also contribute to a community science project by taking photos of pollinators on flowers. Find out more at pollinator.org/pollinator-week.





FUN FACT

The word "orangutan" comes from Malay words meaning "human of the forest."



A Sumatran orangutan

Orangutan seen using natural medicine

A Sumatran orangutan in Indonesia has stunned wildlife experts by treating a wound on his face with a medicinal plant. Scientists believe this could be a first for any wild animal.

Rakus is an adult male orangutan living at the Suaq Balimbing research station inside Gunung Leuser National Park. One day, after he was injured with a deep cut under his right eye, researchers saw him chewing the leaves of a plant called akar kuning, which is known to have healing properties. He then made a paste from the leaves and applied it to

the cut. The next day, he returned to eat more of the plant's leaves. A few days later, Rakus' face was completely healed.

Animals have been seen eating medicinal plants before, but this is the first time a wild animal has been recorded treating an active wound with one. Although it's possible Rakus didn't know he was munching on a helpful plant, some researchers believe he did it intentionally. They say another ape may have shown him the technique, since orangutans often learn new behaviors by watching other members of their species.

Animal of the week

Beluga whale



New research has suggested that beluga whales communicate using fatty blobs on their foreheads called melons. The whales can mold their melons into at least five different shapes. During social interactions, these change nearly twice a minute.

- **LIFE SPAN:** Up to 60 years in the wild
- **HABITAT:** The Arctic Ocean and nearby waters
- **SIZE:** Up to 3,500 pounds and about 18 feet long
- **DIET:** Fish and shellfish, including shrimp
- **FUN FACT:** Beluga whales are born dark gray and turn white after five to 12 years.



Good week / Bad week



Grizzly bears

Experts are reintroducing grizzly bears to a Washington mountain range where they have not lived since 1996. Three to seven bears will be transported from Montana or Canada each year until a stable population is restored.



Sea turtles

Rescuers have been treating more than 500 baby sea turtles that washed up on a beach in South Africa after a big storm. Some of the young turtles are sick or injured and need intensive care before they can be released.



"Why do hyenas laugh?"

Paige, 9, Arizona

Sydney Mayers

Large carnivore keeper,
Smithsonian's National Zoo

There are four different species of hyena, but only spotted hyenas make laugh-like vocalizations, which are technically barks! These happen when an individual has made a kill, is defending its food, feels threatened, or has a surprise encounter with another group of hyenas or competitors, like lions.

Spotted hyenas



Do you have a question for an animal expert? Send it to hello@theweekjunior.com. Find out more about the Smithsonian's National Zoo at nationalzoo.si.edu.



Summer of Reading

Two-Headed
Chicken



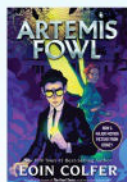
Gregor the
Overlander



The 50 Books KIDS LOVE MOST

The Week Junior surveyed 250 children from across the country about the books they enjoyed so much that they would recommend them to other kids. We turned their suggestions into this one-of-a-kind list of titles featuring a wide variety of genres and characters. Find your summertime page-turners here!

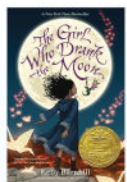
FAVORITE FANTASIES



ARTEMIS FOWL
By Eoin Colfer

(Disney Hyperion)
After his father is presumed dead and his mother

becomes ill, a 12-year-old genius who leads his family's criminal business "discovers fairies and tries to take their gold so he can fund an exploration to find his father," said Fitzpatrick, 11. This book kicks off the eight-part popular book series. Ages 10+



THE GIRL WHO DRANK THE MOON
By Kelly Barnhill

(Algonquin Young Readers)

A witch accidentally feeds a baby moonlight instead of starlight, giving her magical powers when she becomes a teenager. "I love how the main character is so confident!" said Lena, 10. Callie, 11, added that the story "has many perspectives that weave together a perfect fantasy." Ages 8-12



GREGOR THE OVERLANDER
By Suzanne Collins
(Scholastic Inc.)

This is the first book in The Underland

Chronicles series, and it's about "a child who is sent to an underground realm and must save his younger sister," said Aryn, 12. Beneath the city, humans live peacefully with giant spiders, rats, and other creatures, but danger is lurking. From the author who wrote *The Hunger Games*, the story brims with suspense. Ages 9-12



HARRY POTTER AND THE GOBLET OF FIRE
By J.K. Rowling

(Scholastic Inc.)

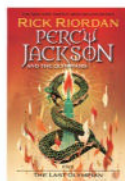
Wands up! The books in the Harry Potter series received more nominations from kids this year than any other, and readers singled out this fourth title as their favorite. It takes place when Harry is about halfway through his wizard training. Clara, 9, said she chose this book because "the Triwizard Tournament is exciting." Ages 8+



THE LAND OF STORIES: WORLDS COLLIDE
By Chris Colfer

(Little, Brown Books for Young Readers)

The final book in the six-part The Land of Stories series "is my favorite because it teaches that even when things are hard, you follow your head and heart," said Georgia, 10. In the story, a character goes missing and the fairy-tale characters are no longer confined to their worlds. Ages 8-12



PERCY JACKSON AND THE OLYMPIANS: THE LAST OLYMPIAN
By Rick Riordan

(Disney Hyperion)

The prophecy of what will happen after Percy Jackson's 16th birthday fantastically unfolds in this famous series' fifth book, our readers' favorite. "It's the most dramatic book in the series," said Ethan, 11. Sebastian, 12, called it "a great adventure," while John, 9, said, "It's full of fun." Ages 8-12

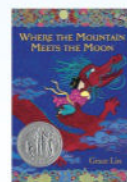


UNLOCKED: KEEPER OF THE LOST CITIES
By Shannon Messenger

(Aladdin)

Readers voted for this book because it's like a reference guide for understanding the previous eight volumes in this popular series. It also

sets up the next story involving Sophie and the Neverseen. "It tells you lots of secrets about the series, plus there are fun crafts and quizzes," said Ardea, 10. Ages 9+



WHERE THE MOUNTAIN MEETS THE MOON
By Grace Lin

(Little, Brown Books for Young Readers)

Eager for adventure, a girl goes on a quest and befriends a dragon. They encounter a talking goldfish, a green tiger, and other interesting people and creatures along the way. "I absolutely



Where the
Mountain
Meets the Moon

Symbol key



Series



Classic



Newbery Medal or Honor



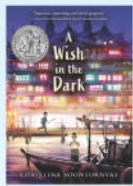
Artemis
Fowl

Enter to win books!

This summer, we challenge you to read three books. They can be from this list or any books you choose. Once you've read them, go to tinyurl.com/TWJUS-ReadingChallenge with an adult to enter our sweepstakes. Four kids will win books, and one grand prize winner will win books and a video call with an Author Ambassador (p15). All winners will be drawn at random. The deadline to enter is August 9.



love mythology, and this book is loaded with Chinese mythology," said Sydney, 12. The book includes exquisite, colorful illustrations. Ages 8–12 ★



A WISH IN THE DARK
By Christine Soontornvat
(Candlewick)

Pong, a kind boy

who escapes from prison in Thailand, is chased by the warden's daughter. But there's a surprising turn of events that may make you think about fairness and justice. "Written from both perspectives, the book has a lot of action and suspense," said Thomas, 11. Ages 8–12 ★



THE WIZARDS OF ONCE
By Cressida Cowell
(Little, Brown Books for Young Readers)

A wizard teen

without any magical powers teams up with a warrior princess to battle witches, which were thought to be extinct. "You don't know who the villain is until the end, so you have to try to solve the mystery with clues," said Thomas, 10. "The detailed labeling of illustrations may help you." Ages 8–12 ○

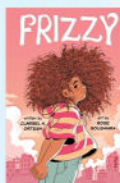
FAVORITE GRAPHIC NOVELS



DOG MAN: LORD OF THE FLEAS
By Dav Pilkey
(Graphix)

The 12-book popular Dog Man series

received a lot of nominations for its hilarious shenanigans and quirky characters. James, 9, said the fifth book is his favorite because "three people keep falling." They even land on marshmallows. It's also the book where the heroes team up with Petey, the World's Most Evil Cat, to save the day. Ages 7+ ○



FRIZZY
By Claribel A. Ortega, illustrated by Rose Bousamra
(First Second)

Every Sunday,

Marlene, who has naturally curly hair, gets her locks straightened at the salon, which she dreads doing. After a ruined blow-out and other misfortunes, the Dominican American middle schooler begins to embrace her hair's natural texture. In the end, Marlene has "never felt better about herself, and she truly feels like she belongs in her body," said Evelyn, 13. Ages 8+



LO & BEHOLD
By Wendy Mass, illustrated by Gabi Mendez
(Random House Graphic)

Two kids who are both feeling lonely meet at a university where one of their dads is researching virtual reality. "The dynamic of their friendship was really relatable, and I liked how they both took care of each other," said Bibi, 12. The ending is bittersweet yet satisfying. Ages 8–12

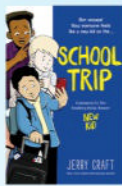


MEXIKID: A GRAPHIC MEMOIR
By Pedro Martín
(Dial Books for Young Readers)

When the author

was a child, he and 10 other family members took an epic, 2,000-mile road trip. You'll feel like you're in the RV with them as they attempt to bring their grandfather, who lives in Mexico, to the US. The journey also

uncovers some new family history. "There are gross parts, funny parts, and sad parts too," said Eleanora, 11. Ages 8–12 ★



SCHOOL TRIP
By Jerry Craft
(HarperCollins)

In this companion book to the Newbery Medal-winning *New Kid*,

Jordan, Drew, Liam, and the rest of their class are excited to visit Paris with their teachers. When a last-minute mix-up puts them with the wrong chaperones, their trip takes a very different twist. "This book is funny and wholesome," said Hillary, 11. "I have read it over and over again and have never gotten bored or tired of it!" Ages 8–12



TWO-HEADED CHICKEN
By Tom Angleberger
(Walker Books)

Filled with silly jokes,

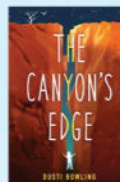
quizzes, puzzles, and zany art, this madcap graphic novel asks readers to imagine they're one head of a two-headed chicken navigating the multiverse. Emmy, 10, described its off-the-wall humor as "really fun." She added, "I love reading the book out loud to my little sister." Ages 7+



WHEN STARS ARE SCATTERED
By Victoria Jamieson and Omar Mohamed, color by Iman Geddy
(Dial Books for Young Readers)

Based on co-author Omar Mohamed's childhood in an African refugee camp with his brother who doesn't speak, "this compelling story really brings you into what refugees felt and how hard it was for them," said Sami, 13. Liam, 12, noted that the ending offers "a lot of hope." Ages 10+

FAVORITE ADVENTURES



THE CANYON'S EDGE

By Dusti Bowling
(Little, Brown Books for Young Readers)

Packed with

"adventure and suspense," said Charlotte, 11, this story focuses on a girl who becomes separated from her dad in a deep canyon in the Arizona desert. She encounters snakes and scorpions, runs low on water, and has to face the demons that have been living inside her since her mom passed away a year ago. Ages 8–12



ELEMENTS OF GENIUS
By Jess Keating, illustrated by Lissy Marlin
(Scholastic Inc.)

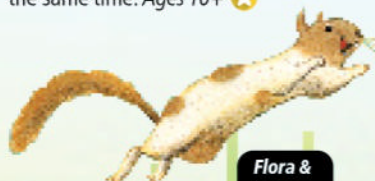
The death ray that kid genius Nikki built is stolen and may have fallen into the wrong hands. Will she be able to track down the thief? "Nikki is adventurous and takes a lot of risks," said Hannah, 10. Fun fact: The character of Nikki is based on Nikola Tesla, a famous inventor who was born in the mid-1800s. Ages 8–12 ○



FLORA & ULYSSES
By Kate DiCamillo
(Candlewick)

After a squirrel is sucked into a vacuum cleaner, he comes

out with "superpowers and even starts writing poetry," said Julianne, 13. He is rescued by Flora who names him Ulysses. But Flora's mom doesn't want a squirrel in the house. Will Flora find a way to keep him? The story is heartfelt and comical at the same time. Ages 10+ ★



Flora & Ulysses





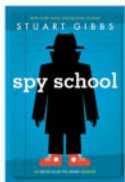
THE LION OF MARS
By Jennifer L. Holm
(Random House
Children's Books)
Bell, 11, is living
on Mars when a

mysterious virus breaks out, making all the adults sick. Bell and the other kids have to figure out what's going on to stop the virus and save the planet. "Bell has to face many fears and overcome things that will change him and everyone around him," said Abbie, 11. *Ages 8–12*



**THE LOST
RAINFORST:
MEZ'S MAGIC**
By Eliot Schrefer,
illustrated by
Emilia Dziubak

(Katherine Tegen Books)
The first book in a series, this story follows a young panther who fears daylight because she's a nightwalker. But then she discovers she has the power to enter the daylight world. With the rainforest in peril, she goes on a quest to solve an ancient mystery. "I like this series because each character has their own backstory, and they are very different from each other," said Aiden, 10. *Ages 8–12*



SPY SCHOOL
By Stuart Gibbs
(Simon & Schuster
Books for Young
Readers)

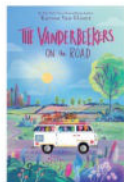
Ben is recruited to attend the CIA's secret training school in this action-packed story, which is the first in this popular

series. His mission: Go undercover and find out who is a double agent. "I like this story because it's about a boy who isn't as experienced as other kids, but he ends up saving his school," said Mariana, 10. *Ages 8–12*



**SUPER YOU! POWER
OF INVISIBILITY**
By Hena Khan and
Andrea Menotti,
illustrated by
Yancey Labat

(Penguin Workshop)
Imagine you find a mysterious device in the woods that can make you invisible. Would you leave it there or pick it up? That's one of the many decisions you can make in this "pick-your-path adventure" that leads to many outcomes for the story. "I loved learning facts about science as I read it!" said Jaden, 8. *Ages 8–12*



**THE
VANDERBECKERS
ON THE ROAD**
By Karina Yan
Glaser
(Clarion Books)

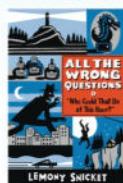
In the sixth book in the popular series, the Vanderbeeker family takes a road trip from their home in Harlem, New York, to California, stopping at several national parks on the way. "It's fun to hear about all the adventures, mishaps, and great times they have," said Samaya, 12. The title of each chapter includes the date and how many miles are left until they reach California. *Ages 8–12*



**WE'RE NOT
FROM HERE**
By Geoff Rodkey
(Yearling)
In this adventure,
humans are

wondering how they'll survive because they "can't live on Earth anymore," said Jonna, 10. "They try to live on Mars, but the aliens don't want them there." One family zooms off to another planet where giant mosquitoes, called the Zhuri, live. Will they be able to convince the Zhuri that humans can peacefully coexist with them? *Ages 8–12*

FAVORITE MYSTERIES



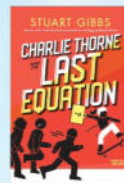
**ALL THE WRONG
QUESTIONS**
By Lemony Snicket,
illustrated by Seth
(Little, Brown Books
for Young Readers)

The first of a four-book prequel to *A Series of Unfortunate Events* follows Lemony Snicket as a teenager in the mysterious town of Stain'd-by-the-Sea. "He meets peculiar characters and battles with himself about who to trust," said Lila, 13. "This is a dark book but in a funny, cozy way." *Ages 8–12*



**ANYBODY HERE
SEEN FRENCHIE?**
By Leslie Connor
(Katherine Tegen
Books)

At first, Aurora and Frenchie seem like opposites. Aurora is chatty while Frenchie, who has autism, doesn't speak. But they both share a love of nature. Then, one day before school, Frenchie vanishes. Aurora blames herself. Where could Frenchie have gone? "With honesty and some funny topics, this book keeps a reader hooked until the end!" said Cleo, 10. *Ages 8–12*



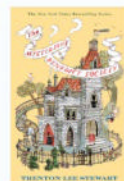
**CHARLIE THORNE
AND THE LAST
EQUATION**
By Stuart Gibbs
(Simon & Schuster
Books for Young
Readers)

A puzzle so dangerous that Albert Einstein arranged for it to be hidden may fall into the wrong hands—and it's up to a super-smart girl to crack the complicated code before the Earth is destroyed. "This is a great book about changes in friendship," said Teddy, 12. "When you think someone has solved the puzzle, know that their answer could be wrong." *Ages 8–12*



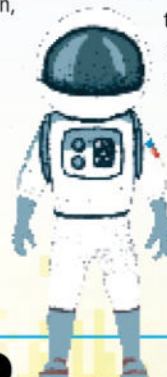
**GREENGLASS
HOUSE**
By Kate Milford
(Clarion Books)

Milo anticipates his winter break will be quiet. But then guests keep showing up at the inn owned by the family who adopted him. Each traveler has a story that's connected to the house, and it's up to Milo and the cook's daughter to unravel the clues. Said 10-year-old Brooke, "It's a very fun and exciting mystery book that will keep you on your toes." *Ages 8–12*



**THE MYSTERIOUS
BENEDICT SOCIETY**
By Trenton Lee
Stewart, illustrated
by Carson Ellis
(Little, Brown Books
for Young Readers)

Four children who aced a mind-bending test go on a secret mission to help save the world from an evil scientist in this first book in a series. "There are also a lot of fun riddles the kids have to solve," said Kyle, 10. "I can't wait to read the next book each time I finish one in this series," added Thomas, 10. *Ages 8–12*



How this book list came together

To compile our list of 50 books, we asked middle graders across the country to tell us what their all-time favorite books from different genres are and why. We also requested that our current and former Junior Council members share the books they love most. The books that received the most votes made it onto the list. It's full of award-winning reads with diverse characters, magical plots, and suspenseful moments—and proof that kids make the best book critics!



Meet our five Author Ambassadors

During our Summer of Reading campaign in the next five issues, look for interviews with these creators who have amazing new books out.



KATHERINE APPEGATE

More than 10 years after she won a Newbery Medal for *The One and Only Ivan*, Katherine Applegate concludes the beloved series with *The One and Only Family*. Ivan, the gorilla born in the African jungle, becomes a father of twins in this poignant book that features other characters from the series.



CHRIS COLFER

The chart-topping author of *The Land of Stories* series, Chris Colfer, ventures into science fiction with *Roswell Johnson Saves the World!* When Roswell, age 11, gets abducted by aliens, instead of being scared, he's happy to confirm that aliens are real. He joins forces with them to help prevent the destruction of Earth.



KEKLA MAGOON

Known for her stories with themes of social justice and identity, Kekla Magoon has now written a fantasy-adventure with *The Secret Library*. A girl follows a map to an ancient vault with a magical library. Each book is a portal to a moment in time, and she hopes to uncover her family's hidden history.



JOHNNIE CHRISTMAS

A creator of comics and screenplays, Johnnie Christmas published his first graphic novel, *Swim Team*, in 2022. His new title, *Gamerville*, is about a boy who dreams of winning a video game championship instead of attending a summer camp with a no-electronics rule.



HENA KHAN

Pakistani and Muslim American characters are featured in Hena Khan's award-winning books. *We Are Big Time* is a graphic novel based on the true story of an all-girls, hijab-wearing basketball team. They learn that teamwork and self-confidence are just as important as talent.



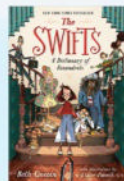
A PERFECT MISTAKE

By Melanie Conklin

(Little, Brown Books for Young Readers)

Max doesn't remember what happened the night his best friend, Will, became seriously injured. They were in a nature preserve when

Max ran away. "Trouble starts when the friends begin to disagree with each other," said Sylvie, 9. A student journalist and a therapist both help Max, who has ADHD, try to solve the mystery of how Will got hurt. Ages 8–12



THE SWIFTS: A DICTIONARY OF SCOUNDRELS

By Beth Lincoln, illustrated by Claire Powell

(Dutton Children's Books)

With "great characters and a surprising twist," said Gus, 9, this first book in a new series is equal parts hilarious and mysterious. The story unfolds in a quirky mansion, where the entire Swift family has assembled to hunt for hidden treasure. But when a murder takes place, the focus shifts to a whodunit story. Ages 8–12

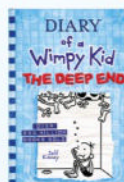
FAVORITE REALISTIC FICTION



THE CHANCE TO FLY

By Ali Stroker and Stacy Davidowitz (Amulet Books)

Co-author Ali Stroker, the first Broadway actor who uses a wheelchair to win a prestigious Tony Award, draws on her childhood memories to create the character of Nat, a 13-year-old who loves musicals. At summer camp, Nat worries that using a wheelchair will prevent her from landing a part in the show. "It's an awesome book with great characters and plot," said Claire, 11. Ages 8–12



DIARY OF A WIMPY KID: THE DEEP END

By Jeff Kinney (Harry N. Abrams)

The 15th book in this blockbuster series follows Greg and his family on a cross-country camping trip in an RV. From getting lost in the woods to a surprise encounter with a skunk, they have many misfortunes along the journey. "I like the way they travel and eventually overcome their struggles," said Caterina, 11. Ages 8–12

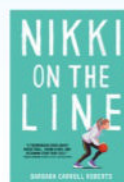


GOODBYE STRANGER

By Rebecca Stead (Yearling)

Three friends once swore over a Twinkie

snack cake that they'd never fight with each other. But seventh grade is testing their resolve. Will they be able to grow up without growing apart? "The descriptions in this book are so vivid, and the characters are so real," said Lila, 13. "I have yet to find a more relatable, accurate depiction of different types of middle-school friendships." Ages 12+

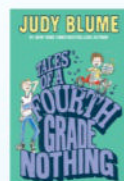


NIKKI ON THE LINE

By Barbara Carroll Roberts (Little, Brown and Company)

Nikki isn't

particularly tall, but she's so talented at playing basketball that she makes the cut to play for an elite league. Filled with exciting action, including courtside play-by-plays, this sports story feels fresh because "there aren't many books about girls who are good at playing basketball," said Jonna, 10. Ages 8–12



TALES OF A FOURTH GRADE NOTHING

By Judy Blume (Puffin Books)

More than 50 years after it was first

published, this popular story that features Peter and his poorly behaved younger brother is still making readers laugh out loud. "It's absolutely hilarious! I also love Peter's reactions to his classmate Sheila," said Hillary, 11. It's the first book in the Fudge series, and it's followed by best-sellers such as *Superfudge* and *Otherwise Known as Sheila the Great*. Ages 8–12

**THE THING ABOUT JELLYFISH****By Ali Benjamin***(Little, Brown Books for Young Readers)*
Before seventh

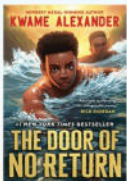
grade, Suzy's friend dies in a drowning accident. On a trip to an aquarium, Suzy becomes convinced that her friend didn't drown. Instead, she thinks she was stung by a rare jellyfish. Suzy is determined to prove her theory. "The story goes deep into your heart," said Zelah, 11. **Ages 10+**

**THE UNTEACHABLES****By Gordon Korman***(Balzer + Bray)*
Room 117 is filled

with students who have a reputation for being troublemakers. The class is assigned to a teacher who plans not to instruct the students and just sail into retirement. But that's not what happens. "Mr. Kermit, the teacher, is hilarious. I've never had a teacher like him," said Andrew, 11. **Ages 8–12**

**WONDER****By R.J. Palacio***(Alfred A. Knopf)*

A boy who was born with a facial difference enrolls in a public school for the first time. Will he fit in and be accepted by his classmates? "I cry happy and sad tears when I read *Wonder*," said Cal, 12. **Ages 8–12**

FAVORITE HISTORICAL FICTION**THE DOOR OF NO RETURN****By Kwame Alexander***(Little, Brown and Company)*

An accident transforms the life of an 11-year-old boy in Ghana, a country in Africa. Slave traders capture him

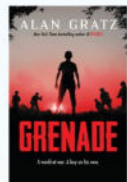
and force him to leave behind his family and sail to America, where he will be enslaved. Written in free verse, "the book really got me to start thinking from the perspective of someone who is enslaved," said Julia, 11. **Ages 12+ 🟢**

**ECHO****By Pam Muñoz Ryan***(Scholastic Press)*

Sprinkled with adventure, mystery, and fantasy elements, this story is set in the 1930s and 1940s and brings together three characters who are experiencing different injustices. "The author develops characters and intertwines them between different impactful events in world history," said Hannah, 10. **Ages 10+ 🟡**

**FRONT DESK****By Kelly Yang***(Arthur A. Levine Books)*

It's 1993, and Mia's parents, who immigrated from China, land a job managing a hotel in California. But it's not as much fun as it sounds because the owner doesn't pay her parents a fair wage. Mia helps out at the front desk, encountering an interesting mix of people. "It's a beautifully written, heart-wrenching story of a family that is just trying to make it through the year," said Avery, 10. **Ages 8–12 🟢**

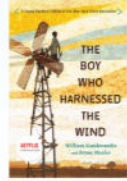
**GRENADE****By Alan Gratz***(Scholastic Press)*

An American soldier and a Japanese student fought on different sides in the same battle in World War II (1939–1945). "I really like this book because it has two points of view on the same events," said Otis, 11. "At one point, they even meet on the battlefield." **Ages 10+**

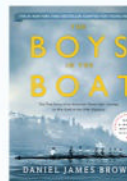
**RESISTANCE****By Jennifer A. Nielsen***(Scholastic Inc.)*

During World War II (1939–1945), a

teenage girl goes undercover to help protect Jewish families living in Nazi-occupied Poland. She pretends to be Polish, allowing her to smuggle food, papers, and people. "The book is exciting and action-packed," said Hillary, 11. "You will cry, laugh, smile, and gasp." The main character is based on real people who are profiled at the end of the book. **Ages 10+**

FAVORITE NONFICTION**THE BOY WHO HARNESSSED THE WIND: YOUNG READERS EDITION****By William Kamkwamba and****Bryan Mealer, illustrated by Anna Hymas***(Rocky Pond Books)*

A severe food shortage struck William Kamkwamba's small African village when he was growing up. At the village library, he came up with the idea to build a windmill that could power a water pump to irrigate land so they could grow crops again. "His idea helped everyone," said London, 9. "He was persistent and hunted down the materials to make the windmill." **Ages 8–12**

**THE BOYS IN THE BOAT, ADAPTED FOR YOUNG READERS****By Daniel James Brown, adapted****by Gregory Mone***(Puffin Books)*

This book "tells the inspiring story of lumberjacks, fishermen, and students at the University of Washington," said Noah, 11. They overcome challenges to become a rowing team that wins Olympic gold.

This book is especially timely to read because the Summer Olympics are starting on July 26 in Paris, France. Many photographs are included. **Ages 10+**

**THE MONA LISA VANISHES****By Nicholas Day, illustrated by Brett Helquist***(Random House Studio)*

In 1911, the *Mona Lisa*, a famous painting by Leonardo da Vinci, was stolen from a museum in Paris. Packed with suspense and thought-provoking details, this book covers "an interesting part of history that I didn't know anything about," said Charlie, 11. Helen, 10, added that the writing "makes you feel like you're in the story." **Ages 10+**

**THE WOMAN IN THE MOON****By Richard Maurer***(Roaring Brook Press)*
Margaret Hamilton, a

trailblazing scientist for NASA who was born in 1936, wrote the computer code that helped fly the first astronauts to the Moon. "This well-written book describes how Margaret Hamilton pursued a career that not that many women had at that time," said Samaya, 12. "I recommend it to anyone who likes space or science." **Ages 10+**

Kids' favorite genres revealed

Children told us they love to read about magical worlds the most.

41% Fantasy/science fiction**32%** Realistic fiction**18%** Mystery**7%** Historical fiction**2%** Nonfiction



My Summer Reading Memories

Fill out this form so you can capture who you are as a reader right now! Save it in a special place and look at it again next summer so you can see if your choice in books has changed or stayed the same. Happy reading!

Name

Age



Book I enjoyed most this summer:



The place where I most liked reading:



Best book I've ever read:



Favorite character:



Favorite author:



Favorite genre:



Book I hope to read next:



WILD AND FAST
African wild dogs weigh between 40 and 70 pounds and can sprint faster than 44 miles per hour.

African wild dogs raise their eyebrows and use different facial expressions.

Puppy-dog eyes aren't just for pets

Dogs are known for looking up at their humans with wide, pleading “puppy-dog eyes” when they’re hoping for a treat or a scratch. While it’s nice to think our pets use this sweet look only with people they love, a new study suggests that wild dogs also use it to communicate with each other.

Modern dogs have well-developed muscles in their faces that help them make a range of facial expressions, including the puppy-dog eyes look. A 2019 study found that these muscles were more pronounced in domesticated (adapted to live with humans) dogs than in wild wolves. Scientists believe that dogs evolved (changed very slowly over time) from wolves about 15,000 years ago, around the time they started living with humans.

The authors of the 2019 study said their findings indicated that puppy eyes evolved in dogs as they began living more closely with humans. They thought dogs began mimicking human facial expressions as a way to get people to take care of them. Wild dogs and wolves wouldn’t need to do this because they don’t live as closely with people.

However, a recent study from scientists at Midwestern University in Arizona is challenging

those conclusions. The study found that African wild dogs have facial muscles that are similar to and just as well developed as those in pet dogs.

If African wild dogs and domesticated dogs have similarly expressive faces, then it is likely the trait did not evolve only for the animals to communicate with people. This finding “opens a door to thinking about where dogs come from and what they are,” Anne Burrows, an author of the 2019 study, told *Nature*. She said it’s possible that the muscles were once common in wolves and dogs but disappeared from wolves over time.

African wild dogs are pack animals that hunt in groups to catch large prey, which requires excellent communication. The researchers believe the animals may use facial expressions as a way of silently communicating with each other during these group activities. Wolves, however, don’t rely as much on visual communication with each other.

The team from Midwestern University hopes to study the facial muscles of different species of wolves and wild and domesticated dogs. This will help them learn more about how and why they communicate with each other—and with us.



Puppy-dog eyes

Purebreds and mixed-breeds



A purebred yellow Labrador retriever

It’s commonly thought that mixed-breed dogs are less likely to have health problems than purebreds. Mixed-breeds are believed to be healthier because they have a mix of genes (sections of DNA, a chemical that carries all the information about a living thing). But a new study of more than 27,000 dogs has found that purebred and mixed-breed dogs are diagnosed with health problems at similar rates.

The research is based on information in the Dog Aging Project, an online database that collects information about pets’ health and lifestyles. The recent study found that the most common health problems in purebred and mixed-breed dogs were similar. For instance, both kinds of dogs are prone to ear infections and dental problems.



New asthma treatment offers hope

Scientists may have found a treatment for asthma, which affects more than 27 million people in the US, including 4.5 million children. Asthma alters the airways that carry oxygen in and out of the lungs. There is currently no cure for it. There are only medications that treat the symptoms.

During an asthma attack, a person's airways become inflamed. That restricts oxygen flow into their lungs and causes wheezing, coughing, and shortness of breath. The inflammation damages cells in the airways and increases production of mucus (sticky liquid) in the lungs.

Over time, these reactions can lead to permanent harm to the airways. Damaged airways make future asthma

attacks more likely, causing a constant cycle of problems for asthma sufferers.

Now scientists are testing a treatment that could stop the damage from happening at all. A chemical called gadolinium has been found to prevent inflammation, cell damage, and production of mucus. Disrupting the inflammation cycle reduced harm to airways by up to 80%, which in turn could prevent or stop future asthma attacks.

The new treatment could also help people facing other inflammatory diseases, such as disorders of the digestive system. So far, gadolinium has been tested only on mice, but scientists hope to eventually try it on humans to see if it has the same effect.

DID YOU KNOW?
In children, boys are more likely to have asthma than girls. In adults, women are more likely to have it than men.



Inhalers are currently used to treat asthma symptoms.



The rebuilt skull (below) and re-created woman

Neanderthal woman's face revealed

A Neanderthal woman's face has been reconstructed based on a 75,000-year-old skull found in Iraq. Neanderthals are the closest relatives of modern humans and lived about 400,000 to 40,000 years ago.

The skull was found in 2018 in Shanidar Cave, 24.6 feet underground. It had been crushed by falling rocks into hundreds of fragments, then buried under rock and soil. "The skull was as flat as a pizza, basically," said Graeme Barker,

who led the dig. Scientists carefully removed the pieces and brought them to a lab, where they spent more than a year fitting them back together like a jigsaw puzzle.

The team named the Neanderthal woman Shanidar Z. After they rebuilt the skull, they scanned it and created a 3D replica. Based on the model, artists determined what the woman might have looked like and used clay and other materials to reconstruct her with muscles, skin, and hair.



A wearable that powers people



The X1 exoskeleton

A wearable device with artificial intelligence boosts walking, hiking, climbing, and running power. The X1 exoskeleton (outer shell) fits around the waist and thighs. It analyzes the wearer's leg positioning thousands of times a second and adjusts to their

stride, pace, and movements. As X1 learns about the wearer, it personalizes its response.

X1 can help the wearer carry an extra 83 pounds, improve their running speed, and cut their energy use in half. The device is sleek, lightweight, and battery-powered.



Sports

FUN FACT

Warroad, Minnesota, is nicknamed Hockeytown, USA, because of how many stars in the sport it has produced.



The PWHL's Minnesota team

The Walter Cup



The PWHL trophy is named after businessman Mark Walter, who played an important role in the league's formation. Made of sterling silver, it is 24 inches tall, weighs 35 pounds, and features a cup being held up by two hockey sticks. Six engraved W's represent the first six teams.

Minnesota are first PWHL champs

The PWHL (Professional Women's Hockey League), which kicked off its inaugural season in January, now has its first champion. In the deciding fifth game of the finals on May 29, which was played at the Tsongas Center in Lowell, Massachusetts, Minnesota beat Boston, 3-0, to claim the Walter Cup.

The playoffs began with the top four of the PWHL's six teams. Boston finished the regular season in third, while Minnesota was fourth. In the semifinals, Minnesota knocked out Toronto, the top team, while Boston eliminated the number two team, Montreal.

In the finals, Boston kicked things off with a thrilling 4-3 win. Minnesota forward Taylor Heise,

the number one pick in the PWHL draft last year, scored twice in the game. Minnesota comfortably won the next two games and had an opportunity to clinch the series in Game 4. The game

was tied 0-0 at the end of the third period and ended up going to double overtime. Boston stayed alive thanks to a game-winning goal by Alina Muller.

Minnesota came back and dominated Game 5. They compiled 44 shots on goal, while Boston was able to muster 17. Minnesota's Liz Scheppers opened the scoring in the second period, and the team began the third period still up 1-0. A goal by Minnesota's Michela Cava made it 2-0, and her team's strong defense

prevented Boston from making a comeback. In the final minutes, Minnesota's captain, Kendall Coyne Schofield, a Team USA veteran, sealed the win with an empty net goal. After the team was presented with the Walter Cup trophy, she had the honor of taking the first lap around the ice with it.

At the end of the finals, Heise was voted the recipient of the first-ever Ilana Kross Playoff Most Valuable Player award. She led the league with five playoff goals and also had three assists.

The first PWHL season was a success. More than 390,000 people attended games, including one in April between Montreal and Toronto that attracted a crowd of 21,205, a record for women's hockey. The next season is expected to begin in early December, and teams will expand their schedules from 24 regular-season games to 30.

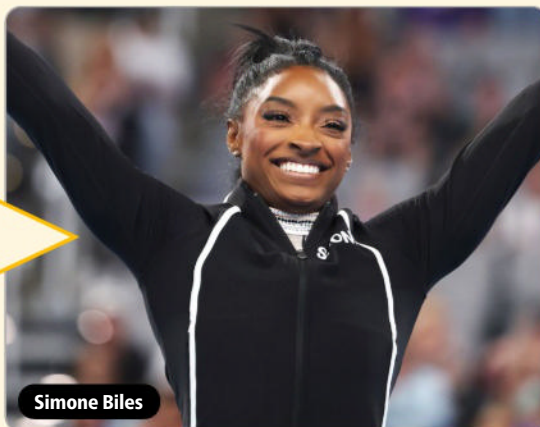


Kendall Coyne Schofield

THIS WEEK'S WINNERS...

GYMNASTICS

At the US Gymnastics Championships on June 2, Simone Biles won five gold medals. She placed first in the all-around and every individual event. This is the ninth time she has won the all-around at the competition, which is a record, and her 32nd all-around title overall. With the win, she qualified for a spot at the US Olympic Trials. On the men's side, Brody Malone won his third all-around title.



Simone Biles

HOCKEY

In the NHL, the Florida Panthers beat the New York Rangers, 2-1, on June 1 to make their second straight Stanley Cup finals. On June 2, the Edmonton Oilers beat the Dallas Stars, 2-1, to get to the finals for the first time since 2006.

BASKETBALL

On June 2, the WNBA's Connecticut Sun beat the Atlanta Dream, 69-50. The win brought the Sun's record to 8-0. DeWanna Bonner leads the team in scoring, with 19 points per game.



NEXT STOP: GERMANY

The 2025 Champions League final will be held in Munich, Germany, for the first time since 2012.



Real Madrid player Joselu with the Champions League trophy

Real Madrid wins Champions League

On June 1, the championship match of the UEFA (Union of European Football Associations) Champions League was played between Borussia Dortmund and Real Madrid. The Champions League is an annual months-long competition between top soccer clubs in Europe and one of the most prestigious soccer tournaments in the world. The final took place at Wembley Stadium in London, England. Real Madrid won, 2–0, to secure their 15th title, which is the most of any club in history.

Madrid, which plays in Spain's La Liga, won its league title this season and were unbeaten in their Champions League matches. Dortmund plays in Germany's Bundesliga and finished their season in fifth place. The club won its only Champions League title during the 1996–1997 competition.

Although Dortmund were the underdogs against Madrid, they maintained control of the scoreless first half. Madrid began to generate their scoring chances in the second half. In the 49th minute, Toni Kroos, who was playing in his final game for Real Madrid, fired a strong shot into the top left corner, but his attempt was saved.

With just under 20 minutes to go, Madrid was awarded a corner kick. Kroos delivered a cross into the middle of the box and found teammate Dani Carvajal, who scored. Less than 10 minutes later, Dortmund turned the ball over in their own half, then Madrid's Jude Bellingham passed it to Vinícius Júnior, who increased the lead to 2–0.

After the game, Carvajal was named the Player of the Match. Júnior, meanwhile, was named the UEFA Champions League Player of the Season.



COACH OF THE WEEK

Coach's Name: **Harvey Mills**

Team: **Ball Game Academy (basketball)**

"Coach Harvey is the best basketball coach I can ask for. He explains drills perfectly and gives us great examples of how to do things. He also tells us how to have the right mindset and how to push each other. He always tries to make us do our best and tells us stories that help us hold ourselves accountable. I really appreciate the life lessons he's taught me. Basketball is not just a sport. It is also about lessons you can use on and off the court." Parker, 10, California



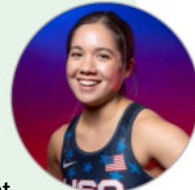
To nominate a Coach of the Week, send your coach's name, photo, sport, and team to hello@theweekjunior.com. Include your name, age, state, and a few reasons why your coach is great.

SPOTLIGHT ON...

These US athletes have qualified for or are hoping to qualify for this summer's Olympics or Paralympics in Paris. Here's what they told The Week Junior about their sports.

Jourdan Delacruz AGE: 26
SPORT: WEIGHTLIFTING

"There are a lot of kids getting into weightlifting. If you don't want to compete in it, picking up a barbell is still great for the development of other sports. My favorite thing about weightlifting is the effect it's had on me. I'm a lot stronger physically, obviously, but more so mentally and emotionally. I love the way that being strong as a woman has made me feel."



Brian Bell AGE: 35
SPORT: WHEELCHAIR BASKETBALL

"I love how technical, intense, and high-impact my sport is. You do everything with your arms—you're constantly pushing up and down as you move on the court, and then you have to stop and shoot. A lot of cardio goes into it, plus a lot of technical skills in terms of shooting efficiency."



Daniella Ramirez AGE: 22
SPORT: ARTISTIC SWIMMING

"Artistic swimming is a sport that's a multitude of different sports. We are water polo, swimming, gymnastics, and cheerleading all in one—and diving, if you will. We never touch the bottom of the pool. All the power you see coming out of the water is all of us treading water and pushing it as hard as we can."



David Wagner AGE: 50
SPORT: WHEELCHAIR TENNIS

"One of the coolest and best things about wheelchair tennis is that you can play with the able-bodied population—someone can play standing, and I can play sitting. It's not like wheelchair basketball, where someone standing will block all my shots. There's only one rule change: The person in the wheelchair is allowed two bounces."





Arts and entertainment



WOW!
An average human experiences 27 different emotions, according to a study.

Joy (left) and Anxiety in *Inside Out 2*

Inside Out 2 heads to theaters

The highly anticipated new film is a sequel to the award-winning blockbuster *Inside Out*, a story about emotions.

In 2015, Disney Pixar's animated film *Inside Out*, a heartfelt comedy about an 11-year-old and the emotions living inside her brain, wowed audiences. A sequel, *Inside Out 2*, continues the story and adds a fresh set of characters. It arrives in theaters on June 14.

Inside Out won an Oscar (top film award) for best animated feature and gave people a new way to talk about feelings. It followed Riley, a girl adjusting to living in a new city. The main characters, however, were her core emotions—Joy, Sadness,

Disgust, Fear, and Anger—who controlled her behavior from Headquarters.

In the sequel, Riley is 13 and navigating physical changes and shifting friendships.

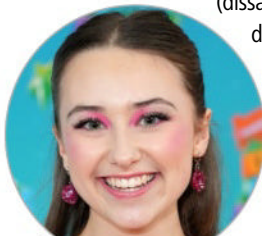
The emotions Anxiety, Embarrassment, Ennui (dissatisfaction), and Envy show up and

disrupt the other emotions' balance. The filmmakers met with mental health experts and psychologists about teens' developing brains to make sure the story was based in reality.

Kensington Tallman, age 15, voices Riley and told *The Week Junior* she related to *Inside Out* when she saw

it as a 6-year-old and had just moved to a new city. Similarly, when making *Inside Out 2*, she was entering adolescence, and one of the biggest emotions she was experiencing was anxiety.

Tallman said she appreciates how the *Inside Out* films give a face to emotions. Although the characters can be funny, they also make feelings easier for people to understand. "The emotions are neither all good nor all bad," she said. "They're there to help Riley." She hopes *Inside Out 2* will be able to show kids that they are not alone in their struggles. "These emotions are real, and this is natural," she said. The film, she added, will help kids "process their emotions in a healthy way."

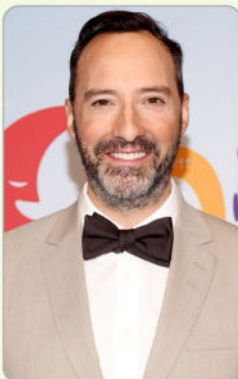


Kensington Tallman

3 new voice cast members

Tony Hale

Fear was voiced by Bill Hader in the first film and will now be voiced by Tony Hale—the star of *The Mysterious Benedict Society*—who is known for playing quirky, funny characters.



Maya Hawke

Fans of the hit sci-fi series *Stranger Things* will recognize Maya Hawke as Robin. In *Inside Out 2*, she is the voice of Anxiety. When she saw the character design, Hawke said, "Yes, that's me!" She thinks the film shows how anxiety can be a healthy emotion.



Ayo Edebiri

The award-winning actress joins the cast as Envy. Ayo Edebiri voiced characters in last year's films *Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles: Mutant Mayhem* and *Spider-Man: Across the Spider-Verse*.





DID YOU KNOW?
A graphic novel version of *Keeper of the Lost Cities* was released last fall.



THIS WEEK'S WATCH LIST



Big City Greens the Movie: Spacecation

(Disney Channel) (Disney+)

The family from the hit animated series *Big City Greens* takes a vacation in space in this new movie. When an asteroid heads toward Earth, the Greens have to stop it. NASA astronaut Scott Kelly has a special guest-starring role.



Wild Ireland: Kingdom of Stone

(PBS App) (PBS.org)

This episode of *Nature* explores the mystical landscapes of Burren National Park in southwest Ireland. It follows an animal called a pine marten (a member of the weasel family) as it travels to its natural habitat, and features other birds and mammals of the area.



Jim Henson Idea Man

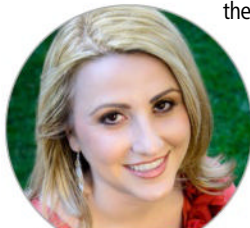
(Disney+)

Puppeteer and animator Jim Henson (1936–1990), who famously created the Muppets and *Sesame Street*, is the subject of this new documentary. It is filled with never-before-seen archival footage and insights from friends and actors who appeared in his films and TV shows.

Popular books to become film

Author Shannon Messenger's best-selling fantasy fiction series *Keeper of the Lost Cities* has been attracting fans for more than 10 years. Now they can look forward to a new way of enjoying the stories. Warner Bros. Pictures has acquired film rights to the books and plans to bring them to the screen.

The first *Keeper of the Lost Cities* book was published in 2012. The main character in the series is Sophie Foster, a girl who learns she has telepathic powers and comes from a magical elven world that is a parallel universe to the human world. A telepathic boy named Fitz becomes her friend and guide as she tries to figure out her role in the magical world and faces dark forces. A new installment in the series, which is considered book 9.5 and revolves around a fan-favorite character, is coming out in



Shannon Messenger

November. Over the years, more than 7 million books from the series have been sold worldwide.

Not many details about the on-screen project have been released, but it has potential to become a film franchise like *Harry Potter*.

Messenger will be an executive producer, and the main producer will be Emma Watts.

She worked on the popular sci-fi film *Avatar* (2009) and other book-to-film adaptations, such as the *Maze Runner* trilogy, which was based on young adult novels.

In 2021, Disney announced plans for a film adaptation of *Keeper of the Lost Cities* that was never made. Messenger shared her excitement about the Warner Bros. news on social media. She said Watts is a "passionate, dedicated, enthusiastic producer" who is committed to making a movie that will have fans "screaming YESSSSSSSS!!!!!!"



READER RECOMMENDS



Star Wars: The Phantom Menace (Episode I)

(Disney+, Hulu, or rent on other platforms)

"This fantastic film is about a Jedi apprentice and master who go on a mission. When their ship breaks down, they land on a planet and go in search of parts. A young slave boy, Anakin, helps them get their parts by winning a race. He has special powers, and the Jedi master wants to train him. But before they leave the planet, the Jedi meet an evil Sith Lord. Later, there's a war between the Gungan Grand Army and the Trade Federation's droid army. The action-packed movie is good to watch with friends and family." Ethan, 9, and Elliott, 8, New York

Do you have a film or TV show to recommend to other kids? Send your review to hello@theweekjunior.com.



How to...



DID YOU KNOW?

Anne Hutchinson is credited with forming the first book club in North America, in 1634.

Start your own book club

Summer is a perfect time to enjoy new books with a group of friends.

A book club is a great way to see friends and keep reading over the summer. How it works is pretty simple: Everyone in the club reads the same book, then meets to discuss it. Book clubs are a fun way to hear other perspectives and discover new books you might not have chosen otherwise. Here's how to get started.

Invite members

First, think about the people you would like to be in your club. Consider who would like to read books and talk about them, and invite them to join. Pick a day and time that is convenient for everyone to meet regularly, either once or twice a month. Talk with an adult about who will host and where. You might rotate homes or pick one convenient spot, like a local community center or park.

Establish ground rules

A few basic guidelines will help your book club meetings run smoothly. At your first gathering, discuss what those rules should be. For example, one guideline could be that only one person can speak at a time. Another could be that all opinions about the book should be respected, even when some members don't agree with them.

Choose the books

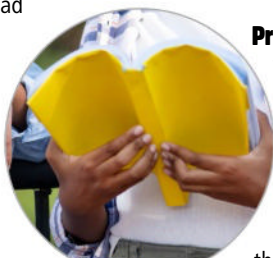
At your first meeting, your club can decide what kind of books you'd like to read. Will you focus on fiction, biographies, graphic novels, or a variety? You can also talk about how your club will choose specific titles. One idea is that members can take turns. To decide who will choose first, second, and so on, you could pick names from a hat or go from youngest member of the group to oldest. For inspiration, see "Find your next read" at right.

Prepare discussion topics

With the other members of your group, prepare a list of topics to discuss at the next meeting, after you've read the book. Some possible questions: What conflicts does the main character face in the book, and how does the author show that? How does the main character change from the beginning to the end?

Add a final touch

Another way to make your book club fun is to take turns bringing a snack that's tied to the theme or the setting of the book. If the book you're reading was turned into a movie, you can also plan a screening with your book club and watch it together!



Discover new books.



Find your next read

If you're looking for a first pick for your book club, take a look at our Summer of Reading list on page 12 as well as these sources.

The Week Junior Book Club

Each month *The Week Junior* chooses a book (such as those shown above) and provides discussion questions and more at theweekjunior.com/bookclub.

Read With Jenna Jr. Jenna Bush Hager, co-host of *Today with Hoda & Jenna* and this issue's guest editor, has released her 2024 book list for kids at tinyurl.com/TWJUS-Jenna.

American Library Association

Get the group's list of notable reads for young people at tinyurl.com/TWJUS-ALA.



MARK YOUR PLACE

Bookmarks became popular in the 18th century when more people had access to books. They were made of silk or other fine fabrics.



Make a painted paper bookmark

What you need

- Kraft paper or newspaper
- Heavy paper, like cardstock or watercolor paper
- Masking tape
- Acrylic craft paint
- Paint scraper, putty knife, or an old credit card
- Scissors
- Hole punch and ribbon (optional)

Instructions

1. Cover a table with kraft paper, newspaper, or other materials to protect it from getting messy. Tape your cardstock or watercolor paper to the kraft paper or newspaper to keep the paper steady while you paint on it.
2. Squeeze some small blobs or droplets of paint onto the cardstock or watercolor paper. You can use a few colors, if you like, and squeeze the blobs on a few areas of the paper.
3. Hold your paint scraper at the top of the paper, with the edge of it resting on the paper. Push the scraper over the blobs of paint to move the paint around on the paper. You can pull the scraper in straight or curvy lines, squiggles, circles, or an arc, like a rainbow. Experiment with how hard you press the scraper down when you pull. This will change how thick or thin the paint appears. For more or

less blending of the colors, try experimenting with the spacing of the paint blobs.

4. After your design dries, you can add more blobs of paint if you wish. Continue scraping the paint around to layer the paint stripes and shapes. For instance, you can make a plaid design by criss-crossing stripes over one another.
5. After your artwork is complete and dry, you can cut it into strips to make bookmarks for yourself as well as for your friends and family.
6. If you'd like, you can punch a hole at the center top of each bookmark and add a ribbon. Cut a 9-inch piece of ribbon and fold it in half. Push the folded end through the hole. Feed the two cut ends through the resulting loop and pull them to tighten. Trim the ribbon ends at an angle.



ECO TIP OF THE WEEK

HOLD A BOOK SWAP WITH FRIENDS

At a book swap, you can trade books with friends to read new stories for free. You'll also help the planet by exchanging books instead of discarding them. With an adult's permission, you can host your own book swap. Pick a date and time and a comfortable place, such as your home, a local park, or a community space at the library. Make a guest list and send out invitations, asking everyone to bring between one and five books they're willing to give away. Set up a spot for guests to "check in" books as they arrive. Once everyone has gathered, start swapping. For every book each person has brought, they can take one of their choosing.





Puzzles



Crisscross

Each of these words about reading fits into this grid. Can you find where each one goes to complete the grid?

4 letters

PLOT

8 letters

TYPEFACE

5 letters

GENRE

INDEX

NOVEL

SCI-FI

SHELF

SPINE

9 letters

COPYRIGHT

HARDCOVER

PAPERBACK

10 letters

DEDICATION

6 letters

JACKET

7 letters

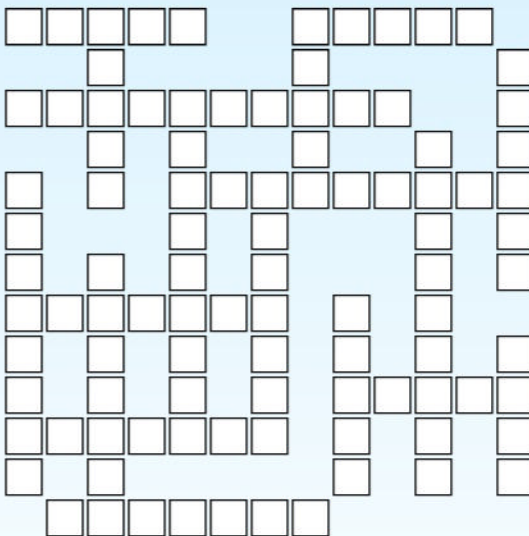
CHAPTER

EDITION

LIBRARY

MYSTERY

PRINTER



Take five

Five 5-letter words that can come before BOOK to make a word or phrase are hidden in this grid. For each one, the first letter is somewhere in the first column, the second is somewhere in the second column, and so on. Can you find all five? (NEED A HINT? Check the bottom of the page.)

S	O	E	R	C
C	U	O	D	Y
G	C	M	A	K
S	H	I	C	P
C	T	R	I	E

SUDOKU

To complete the grid, place the numbers from 1 to 6 exactly once in each row, column, and 2x3 bold-lined box.

		1	5		
	6			1	
3					5
1					2
	3			2	
		2	3		

ALL THE SAME

Each answer contains the letters T-I-E. Those letters have been placed for you. Can you figure out the words?

1. Little shoes knitted for infants

TIE

2. Levels of a stadium or a wedding cake

TIE

3. Person seeing a doctor or dentist

TIE

4. Century in which your parents were born

TIE

5. Outer edge of settled land, like the Old West

TIE

ANSWERS
CAN BE
FOUND ON
PAGE 29.

Spot the difference

These two pictures of summer reading appear to be the same, but take a closer look. There are actually five differences. Can you see them?





A place to get a square meal



A diner with a cheesy theme

For six special days, an empty restaurant space in New York transformed into an eatery devoted to Cheez-It crackers. The menu at the Cheez-In Diner featured diner classics “with a Cheez-It twist,” including themed burgers, fries, and “Mac and Cheez-It.” Adventurous eaters could even enjoy a milkshake with the salty snacks blended in. Inspired by diners of the past, the Cheez-In also had a jukebox that played music for a price—not in coins, but in crackers.

The clothes were quite fetching.



Dogs rock red-carpet looks

Each spring, celebrities gather at New York City’s Metropolitan Museum of Art for the Met Gala, a world-famous event hosted by fashion leaders. The Pet Gala, created by designer Anthony Rubio, features dogs dressed in clothes that pay tribute to the attire at the Met. This year, a Pomeranian dressed like Nicki Minaj (above) and a Chihuahua wore a spin on Zendaya’s dress. “We’re not making fun of the Met Gala,” Rubio said. “[We’re] appreciating the wonderful designs.”

Romeo the record breaker



Supersize steer earns record

Romeo, a male cow in Oregon, has been declared the world’s tallest steer by Guinness World Records. Most steers are between 4 feet and 5 feet tall, but Romeo stands 6 feet, 4.5 inches tall—approximately the same height as the famously towering US President Abraham Lincoln. To maintain his size, the big bovine eats 100 pounds of hay and drinks a bathtub full of water each day. Despite Romeo’s intimidating height, owner Misty Moore assures people that the 6-year-old is the “biggest softie” and loves to cuddle.

Real or fake?



Have stamps risen to a new level?

Stamps with the scent of bread

French officials have released a new postage stamp that will allow people to send a whiff of the nation’s signature bread through the mail. The stamp features an illustration of a baguette wrapped in a ribbon that is red, white, and blue (the colors of France’s flag). Thanks to scratch-and-sniff technology, each stamp can also release the aroma of the famous loaf, which the French postal service called the “jewel of our culture.” Do you think this story is true, or dough-n’t you believe it?*

*Real! The stamps were launched on the holiday of Saint-Honoré, the patron saint of bakers and pastry chefs, and were released to the public on May 17. According to a shop that sells them, the ink includes miniature capsules filled with a “bakery scent.”



Your turn

Editor's note

Welcome to *The Week Junior's* fifth annual Summer of Reading campaign! This year we are pleased to share that our program to keep kids excited about reading over the summer is bigger and better than ever! The centerpiece of the campaign is our ultimate summer reading list created by kids for kids (p12). We hope the recommendations from children across the country will intrigue you. We are also thrilled to welcome Jenna Bush Hager, co-host of *Today with Hoda & Jenna* and founder of Read With Jenna, as this issue's guest editor (p9 and p24). Thank you, Jenna! In addition, Katherine Applegate, Chris Colfer, Kekla Magoon, Johnnie Christmas, and Hena Khan will join us as Author Ambassadors throughout the summer (p15). Thank you to them as well! We invite you to take our challenge for a chance to win prizes (see the red box below). Most of all, we wish you a happy summer of reading!

Andrea Barbalich
Editor-in-Chief



My neighborhood library

“I love books and want to be a librarian when I grow up. Little Free Libraries are book boxes where people can trade books for free. When we moved to a new city, I couldn't find any Little Free Libraries, so my dad recommended I build one! I customized mine to match the houses on my street, and my local library supported the project by giving me a free book to start. I check my library every week, and it's so fun to see all the different types of books that people leave there. I recommend supporting your local library and Little Free Libraries because reading is fun!”



Beatrix, 9, Missouri

Have you done something interesting or raised money for a cause you care about? Whatever you're up to, we want to hear about it at hello@theweekjunior.com.

RIDDLE OF THE WEEK
What has a back and a spine but no head or limbs?
A book

CHARITY OF THE WEEK



We Need Diverse Books

This organization works to promote diverse books so all children can see characters who look like them in the stories they read. Since 2014, the group has donated more than 100,000 books to US schools. It also offers grants and mentorships to writers and illustrators from minority groups and honors top young people's literature with awards. Find out more at diversebooks.org.

WNDB
wneeditdiversebooks.org

SUMMER OF READING

Enter to win books!

This issue kicks off our Summer of Reading campaign! We hope our list of “The 50 Books Kids Love Most” (p12) helps you discover new titles. In upcoming issues, we will feature our Author Ambassadors (p15), who have new books out this year. Finally, we challenge you to read any three books this summer! Once you've read them, go to tinyurl.com/TWJUS-ReadingChallenge with an adult to enter our sweepstakes to win books and more! Five winners will be drawn at random. The deadline to enter is August 9. Happy reading!



THE WEEK
Junior

IT'S YOUR TURN

Email your news, views, and photos to hello@theweekjunior.com.

Your turn



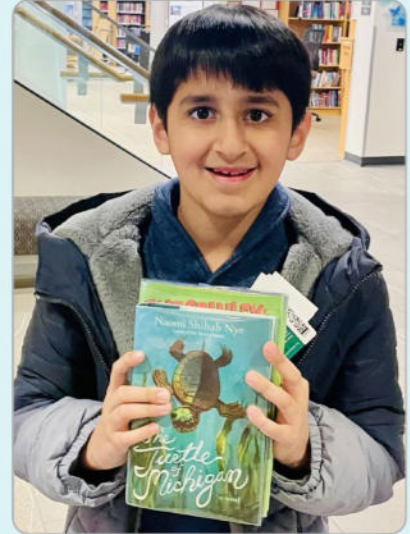
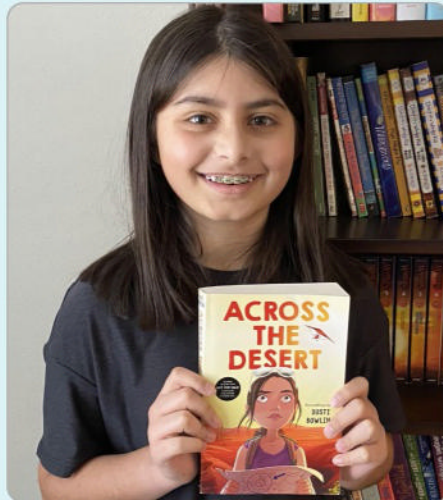
BOOKS YOU LOVE

We love receiving photographs of kids holding a book they've enjoyed reading! If you'd like to participate, have an adult email a photo to hello@theweekjunior.com, along with anything you'd like to say about why you liked the book.



"City Spies: Golden Gate is about a group of teens who are trying to solve a murder. I think it's one of the most exciting mystery stories ever!" Aidan, 11, California

"I give *Across the Desert* five stars! It's about a girl who tries to rescue another girl whose plane crashed in Arizona. It's a perfect mix of hilarious and bittersweet moments!" Alisha, 10, Wisconsin



"We checked out *The Turtle of Michigan* from our library. I think it is an awesome book for Michigan residents to read." Vihaan, 8, Michigan



Teacher OF THE WEEK

Teacher's Name: **Christen Brown**

School: **Walden School**

"Ms. Brown is a kind teacher and the best librarian! She chooses the best books to read aloud. I'm *Trying to Love Math* by Bethany Barton is one of my favorites. Ms. Brown has also been the best third grade sub while my teacher was away."

Lillian, 8, Kentucky

Nominate your teacher for Teacher of the Week!
Send your reason for the nomination, a photo of your teacher, and your school's name and address to hello@theweekjunior.com.

Puzzle answers (from page 26)

SCIFI SHELF
N P J
DEDICATION J A C
E O N H C
T X PAPERBACK
Y Y R I R D T
P L R I
EDITION G C P
F B G T E O P
A R H E NOVEL O
CHAPTER R E R
E R E R
MYSTERY

Take five
scrap
comic
guide
story
check

All the same
1. booties
2. tiers
3. patient
4. twentieth
5. frontier

2	4	1	5	6	3
5	6	3	2	1	4
3	2	6	1	4	5
1	5	4	6	3	2
6	3	5	4	2	1
4	1	2	3	5	6



Quiz answers (from page 30) 1 Melon 2 b) Anxiety 3 b) Minnesota 4 False. A wild orangutan was seen doing this. 5 c) Iraq 6 True 7 a) Abseil 8 Fantasy/science fiction 9 a) Bao Li 10 Josh Gibson 11 False. She is the first woman elected president of Mexico. 12 Jo March 13 b) Stegosaurus 14 a) Each other 15 False. It was devoted to Cheez-Its.

We want to hear from you! To have your letters, photos, nominations, recommendations, or ideas considered for inclusion in the magazine, please include your full name, age, and state with your submission. By emailing your submission to us, you give *The Week Junior* consent to publish it in the magazine and online. Please get your parent/guardian's permission before sending anything to us.



Quiz

How much of this week's news can you remember?

1 What is the fatty blob on a beluga whale's forehead called?

2 Which of the following is a new emotion in the film *Inside Out 2*?

a) Anger b) Anxiety c) Joy

a ☐ b ☐ c ☐

3 Which team won the first Professional Women's Hockey League championship?

a) Boston b) Minnesota c) Toronto

a ☐ b ☐ c ☐

4 True or false? A wild chimpanzee in Indonesia was seen treating a wound with a medicinal plant.

True ☐ False ☐

5 Scientists re-created the face of a Neanderthal woman from a 75,000-year-old skull found in what country?

a) India b) Iran c) Iraq

a ☐ b ☐ c ☐

6 True or false? An upcoming installment of *Keeper of the Lost Cities* is considered book 9.5 in the series.

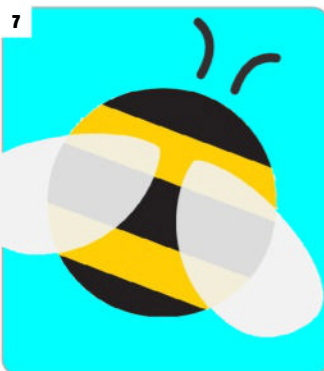
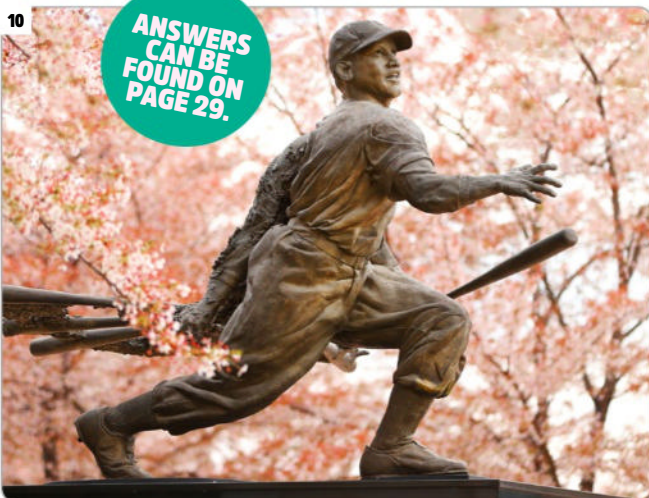
True ☐ False ☐

7 What was the winning word in this year's Scripps National Spelling Bee?

a) Abseil b) Caixinha c) Pusztá

a ☐ b ☐ c ☐

8 Which genre of books did kids polled for our summer reading list say they like best?



9 Which of these pandas will be sent to the Smithsonian's National Zoo later this year?

a) Bao Li b) Mei Xiang c) Tian Tian

a ☐ b ☐ c ☐

10 Which player was recently announced as Major League Baseball's all-time leading hitter?

11 True or false? Claudia Sheinbaum is the second woman to be elected president of Mexico.

True ☐ False ☐

12 What character from a book did Jenna Bush Hager say she would love to hang with?

13 The most complete fossil of what kind of dinosaur is going up for sale at Sotheby's auction house?

a) Triceratops

b) Stegosaurus

c) Allosaurus

a ☐ b ☐ c ☐

14 A new research study found that African wild dogs use facial expressions to communicate with which of the following?

a) Each other b) Humans c) Wolves

a ☐ b ☐ c ☐

15 True or false? A temporary diner devoted to Cheetos opened in New York.

True ☐ False ☐

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Keep kids reading all summer long!

The Week Junior invites our readers to jump into a summer of super adventures through our Summer of Reading challenge.

Reading can take kids anywhere they can think of. They can be the hero of a thousand stories, this summer and beyond.

Bring along a friend, create a summer book club, or give a gift of *The Week Junior* and treat another child to a summer of reading adventures.

**Makes
a great
gift!**

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**SHINY
INSECTS**

Japanese beetles, with their metallic green bodies, are native to Japan but also found throughout North America and Europe.